Please Yourself to Please Your Audience

SIMPLE RULE FOR SUCCESS

ONCE upon a time the great Polish pianist, Ignace Jan Paderewski, happened upon a piano studio in a small western town. Over the door was the legend:

"MISS X — PIANO LESSONS — 50c."

Paderewski walked up to the door and knocked.

The teacher answered the door, at once recognized her distinguished visitor and welcomed him in. He sat down and played—as only he could play — the Chopin nocturne through which he had just heard Miss X plowing her rather painful way.

Thereafter he spent an hour or more smoothing out the rough spots in Miss X's rendition and then made his departure.

Returning to the same town some months later, he passed the same studio. Over the door was the legend:

"MISS X—PIANO LESSONS —$1.50"

(PUPIL OF PADEREWSKI)

SANDRA PARTON . . . home product.

Discounting the opportunism displayed by the perhaps apocryphal Miss X, the fact still remains that there must be very few piano teachers who are as fortunate as she.

This is a pity because they are a most deserving section of the human race. They shoulder the great responsibility of ensuring that every successive generation shall not be denied its music. A skill in any art may well be inherent or hereditary but never its development.

And, in similar vein, it has been proved many times that good teachers are, themselves, a breed apart. Great artistry and successful teaching do not necessarily go hand in hand. Not every great artist has the additional capacity to pass on to others talent, knowledge or the fruits of experience.

So, in back of every performer — even the greatest — there is the person or persons who nourished and moulded his or her talent. But very often this shadowy figure goes unrevealed and, very often, too, unrecognized. Yet, perhaps, their very product is their best reward.

Thus it would seem that for every piano player—as, indeed, for every other artistic type—there comes a parting of the ways when a decision must be reached as to which of three roads is the best to take: That of the concert artist, a teacher or just the carefree exponent of a glorified parlor-trick?

Miss Sandra Parton has definitely rejected any thought of becoming a concert pianist but she is interested in teaching. And she has built up qualifications which actually fit her for either.

In June of 1957 she passed Grade 10 in the Toronto Conservatory examinations, which, of course, include theory. This she accomplished with first-class honors and, last month, was selected as winner of the Mrs. Jay Durand scholarship. The award was actually made at the Toronto Conservatory of Music Alumni presentation recital on Jan. 17 and this was the first time that this particular prize was given. It has started in worthy hands.

Sandra, who is currently teaching Grade 3 at Cordova Bay School, was born in Regina but has lived in Victoria for the last 12 years. She attended Willows Elementary School, Oak Bay High School and Victoria College. In June of 1960 she intends to take the Conservatory examinations which, if properly negotiated, will give her her ARCT.

In company with practically all other pianists I have talked to, Miss Parton plays no favorites among composers.

"I enjoy anything that has good rhythm and a reasonable melody," she explains and adds, "something that's quite harmonious."

This actually came in reply to a question as to how she considered the modern composers. Maybe it was just fancy on my part that led me to discern a slight note of distrust of the moderns. More likely it was unfamiliarity.

"I haven't done much in the way of modern compositions," says Sandra.

She started her training with Miss Dermot Baillie and is now studying with Miss Noel Smith. She accompanies the choir of Fairfield United Church and fulfills a similar function for school choirs at the Music Festival.

Sandra Parton expresses some sound and refreshing views regarding the very thing she herself is disinclined to do, namely, performing for an audience.

Under these circumstances, says she: "Aside from technical skills, you must have complete confidence that you know what you want to do and know you can do it."

So far this is, clearly, a common enough thesis but Sandra proceeds to develop it.

"The emphasis," she continues, "is on what you want to do, which is not necessarily what the audience wants."

This has all the earmarks of the absolute end in utter independence. But as explained by Sandra, it seems sound reasoning.

"There are," she says truthfully, "too many people in an audience wanting different things to please all of them—so please yourself."

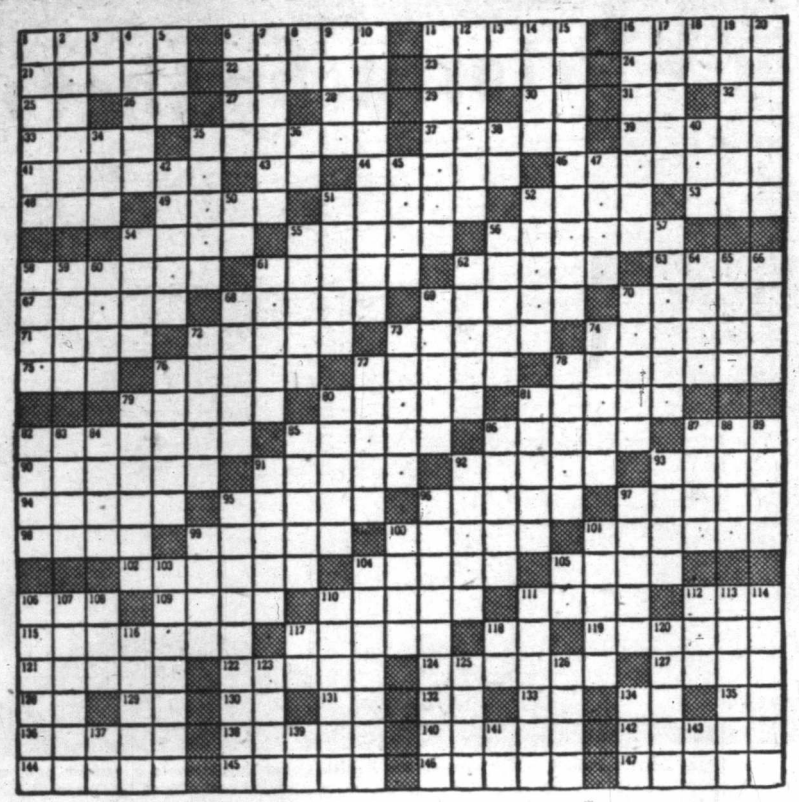
She could logically have added that, by pleasing yourself and consequently providing a confident, definite and well-turned performance, you almost automatically please most of the audience anyway.

It happens all the time.

ANAGRAM ANSWERS

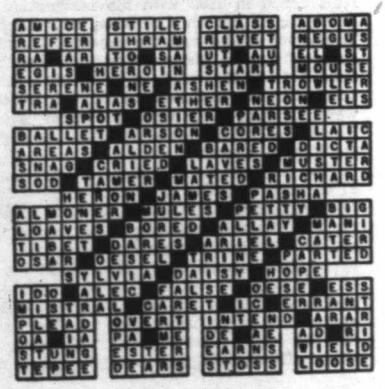
(1) **MANACLE**
(2) **PASTURE**
(3) **GRISTLE**
(4) **RESPOND**
(5) **SERRATE**

SUNDAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Visitor
6 Make public address
11 Made mistake
16 Beaded lizard (pl.)
21 Beneath
22 Profit surplus for distribution
23 Apartment
24 To make suitable
25 Fundamental mass of life's tendencies
26 Two
27 Man's nickname
28 Pronoun
29 Symbol for platinum
30 Chemical suffix
31 Syllable of scale
32 Hawaiian hawk
33 In a short time
35 Supplication
37 Climbing plant
39 Stupid mistake
41 Goes in
43 Symbol for tellurium
44 Nickname for St. Mary's (Cal.) teams
46 Wry face
48 Place
49 Alleviate
51 Indian tent
52 Tense
53 Article of furniture
54 Capable
55 Moderates
56 Most recent
58 Ennui
61 A stone
62 Deceives
63 Recedes
67 States
68 Of sound waves
69 Cost of transportation (pl.)
70 Aggregation
71 Small
72 A descendant (pl.)
73 Flutter
74 An alphabet of Kashmir
75 Cunning
76 Plant of mustard family
77 Girl's name
78 Guided through
79 Milwaukee ballplayer
80 Entire range
81 Cape Verde Negro
82 Change the course of
85 Seraglio
86 Wraps in a waxed cloth
87 Prefix: before
90 Retaliate
91 Provide a supply of food
92 Language of old Romans
93 Meadows
94 Thoroughfares
95 Destinies
96 Competitor
97 Rent
98 Narrate
99 Flexible shoots
100 A skirmish
101 Last mentioned
102 Birds
104 Torpor (pl.)
105 A religious order
106 Frigate bird
109 — and Leander
110 Acid occurring in apples
111 Enclosure for bees
112 Rocky pinnacle
113 Invented wireless telegraphy
117 To become energetic
118 Symbol for tantalum
119 Shade capture
121 Entreaties
122 Loop with running knot
124 Hang loosely
127 Means of egress
128 Part of Bible (ab.)
129 Football position (ab.)
130 Babylonian deity
131 Either, a notehand breve
132 Printer's measure
133 U.S. soldier
134 Raised transportation line
135 Word of negation
136 Tennis stroke
138 Severe
140 Kingdom
142 Aviator
144 Attempted
145 Two-wheeled carriages (coll.)
146 Precepitous
147 Brown as bread

DOWN
1 Semblance (pl.)
2 Neglected
3 Man's nickname
4 Net
5 Prefix: three
6 First name of Persian poet
7 Narrate
8 Man's nickname
9 Large volume
10 Strenuous
11 Products which land yields
12 A mineral
13 State (ab.)
14 English school
15 Representative at convention (pl.)
16 A chess opening
17 Language peculiar to a people
18 Musical syllable
19 Each
20 Stocked against a future time
34 Former Giants' manager
35 Sacred hymn
36 Old pronoun
38 While
40 Seize
42 Puzzle
45 Mimics
47 Regrets
50 A direction
51 Philippine women's sash
57 Candle
57 Breezy
55 Notice of a proposed marriage
56 Entices
57 Fright
58 Makes lace edging
59 Wicked
60 Disclaim
61 Unfastened
63 Life boat crane
64 Vessel
65 River of Cornwall
66 Mine surveying nail
68 To sift
69 Tribunal
70 Strong winds
72 Shipping case
73 Four-base hit
74 Warning signal device
76 Steep rugged rock (pl.)
77 Ventures
78 Danger
79 A bedroll (slang)
80 Portals
81 Bristles
82 Blowgun missile
83 Cry of the Bacchanals
84 Kind of meat
85 Dislikes intensely
86 Natural openings in earth
87 Kind of fuel
88 To make an incised mark
89 Danish weight (pl.)
91 Division of long poem
92 Flower
93 Native of Latvia
95 Impetuousness
96 Mementos
97 Passes through a series of eyelets
99 British gun
100 Burrowing animal
101 Dike
103 Wrote articles for another
104 Act of caving in (pl.)
105 Spanish for yes
106 Tax
107 Masculine name
108 Form of "to be"
110 Woe
111 Wrangle
112 Duty
113 Thinks
114 Answer
116 Cut
117 Behold!
118 Weight (ab.)
120 Stringed instrument
123 Solemn affirmation
125 The dill
126 Walk lamely
134 A newt
137 Japanese measure
139 Each (ab.)
141 Denoting unfit ship in Lloyd's register
143 State (ab.)

SOLUTION NEXT SUNDAY

Last Sunday's Solution